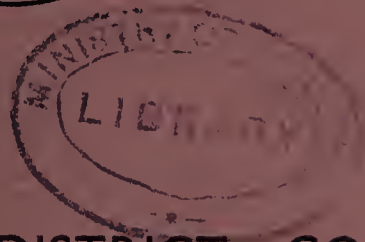
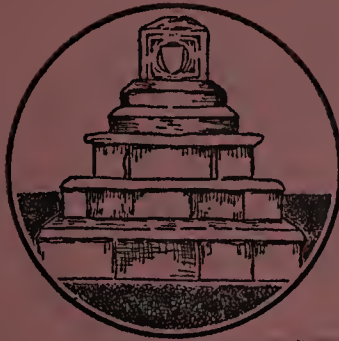


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MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year, 1955.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you
my report for the year 1955.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Committee Councillor. T. H. Ellingham -
Chairman.
Councillors. J. S. Collingwood,
A. J. Goss, A. E. Horton, H. W.
Papworth, M. Robinson and E.
Smith.

(ii) Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector. - H. Burton, M.S.I.A.

(iii) General Statistics.

Area in acres. 19,777

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for 1955) 13,160

Number of inhabited houses 4,185

Rateable Value £54,998

Amount represented by ld. rate £217

The estimated population shows a
decrease of 10 on the 1954 figure.

(iv) Vital Statistics

Table I. - Live births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	77	111	188
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	81	115	196

The birth rate is 14.89 per 1,000 population and is
slightly below the birth rate for England and Wales which
is 15.0. In 1954 the birth rate in the district was
13.06 compared with 15.2 for England and Wales.

Table II - Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	4	5

The rate for still births is 25.51 per 1,000 births compared with 23.1 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	2

The infantile mortality rate is 10.20 per 1,000 live births compared with 24.9 for England and Wales. In 1954 the local figure was 23.26 per 1,000 compared with 25.5 for England and Wales.

No deaths were notified from Infantile Diarrhoea during 1955.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	12	16
Coronary disease, angina	20	1	21
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart diseases	7	11	18
Other circulatory diseases	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	-	2	2
	68	48	116

The death rate for March in 1955 was 8.81 per 1,000 population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	1.71
1 - 5 years	1.71
6 - 15 years	-
16 - 65 years	36.20
66 and over.	60.38
	<hr/>
	100.00%
	<hr/>

(v) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified

Whooping Cough	15
Measles	25
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	4
Non-Pulmonary	1
	<hr/>
	48
	<hr/>

National Assistance, 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken under the above Act during 1955.

Typhoid "Carrier".

Since the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in 1948, there is still one "carrier" living in an isolated part of the district. Samples of faeces are taken regularly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. The sanitation at the cottage is subject to strict supervision.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1955.

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health and Housing Acts:

-4-

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding at the end of 1955.
B/fd.	54	48	6
<u>Milk and Dairies Acts & Orders</u>			
Milk bottles on highway	1	1	-
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective eavesgutters	5	2	3
roofs	8	4	4
chimneys	6	5	1
stoves	3	-	3
floorboards	3	2	1
ceiling plaster	1	-	1
door frames	4	3	1
soil pipe	1	-	1
window	1	1	-
Dampness	1	-	1
Accumulations	8	4	4
Dustbins	3	1	2
	99	71	28

TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1955.

	Served during 1955	Complied with by 31.12.55
<u>Public Health and Housing Acts.</u>		
Verbal	62	46
Letter	24	12
<u>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</u>		
Verbal	2	1
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.</u>		
Verbal	3	3
<u>Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.</u>		
Verbal	1	1
<u>Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.</u>		
Verbal	1	1
<u>Factories Act, 1937.</u>		
Letter	1	-
In addition as a result of complaints from the refuse collectors - re: dustbins.	72	50
	166	114

HOUSING

The Ministry of Health circular 17/55 states that as returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses are submitted quarterly, the inclusion of details on housing matters in Annual Reports may henceforth be discontinued.

DRAINAGE

It is pleasing to note that the new sewerage scheme is now in operation, and it is hoped that the conversion of vaults and pail closets will not be long delayed.

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information required by the Ministry:-

- 1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- 2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- 3) The position as to the contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.
- 4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- 5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains. - (a) direct to house - 87%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

We saw during 1955 the first full year of slaughtering following the decontrol of meat and livestock and it would appear that approximately 7,000 animals will be the annual total slaughtered in this area. In order to maintain a proper system of meat inspection 1,047 visits were required to the four slaughterhouses and this figure includes 119 evening and week end visits. However, as 100% meat inspection is aimed at, and usually achieved, evening visits are necessary and unavoidable until such time as the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are amended.

The Interdepartmental Committee's report on slaughterhouses has now been received and the Minister's decisions on this matter are eagerly awaited.

The number of animals killed during the year at the four slaughterhouses is as follows:- 66 cows; 780 other bovines; 1 calf; 1,120 sheep; 4,837 pigs; and 16 goats. This gives a total of 6,820 and the following figures show the totals during the last five years. 1950 - 3,368; 1951 - 4,236; 1952 - 4,902; 1953 - 5,855; 1954 - 8,144.

I have been acting on behalf of the Ministry of Food under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the certification of pigs on a deadweight basis and it is interesting to note that during 1955, 593 pigs were weighed, necessitating the issue of 319 certificates.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses - 1 cow; 4 other bovines; 1 sheep; 13 pigs; Total 19 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 4 tons 7 stone 13 lbs. and this shows an appreciable decrease from 1954 when the total was 7 tons 14 cwts. 1 quarter 10½ lbs.

The Ministry requests information regarding the number of cases of Food Poisoning during the year. - No cases were reported in this area during 1955.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from January 1st, 1955 to December 31st, 1955.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	780	66	1	1,120	4,837	-
Number Inspected	780	66	1	1,120	4,837	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	1	3	-	1	11	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	66	7	-	3	29	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	8.59	15.15	-	0.36	0.83	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	55	12	-	-	87	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	7.05	19.70	-	-	1.84	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(1) <u>Miscellaneous</u>	Weight	lbs.	ozs.
Cheese		8	7
Ground Almonds			8
Currants		250	-
		258	15

OTHER FOODS (Contd.)

(2) <u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>No. of Tins</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Fruit	41	90	9	
Tomatoes	6	7	14	
Baked Beans	5	4	-	
Peas	14	15	7	
Soup	3	2	4	
Macedoine	3	3	9	
Salad Cream	1		7	
Corned Beef	4	24	-	
Ham	3	39	3	
Luncheon Meat	11	18	1½	
Minced Meat Loaf	3	2	4	
Chopped Pork	1	4	-	
Ox Tongue & Beef	2		9	
Stewed Steak	4	2	7½	
Salmon	2	2	7½	
Smoked Cod	2	28	-	
Sardines	2		8½	
Prawns	2		5	
Herrings	1		7	
Coffee	1		2	
Marmalade	1	1	-	
Milk	11	27	8	
	<hr/> 123 <hr/>	<hr/> 275 <hr/>	<hr/> -¾ <hr/>	

In addition 3 tons 18 cwts. 7 stone 4½ lbs of assorted food stuffs was condemned as the result of a fire.

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued 7 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk, 5 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, and 1 Supplementary Licence for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results as shown:-

Pasteurised Milk

<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfied Methylene Blue Test</u>	<u>Satisfied Phosphatase Test</u>	<u>Failed Both Tests.</u>
24	16	24	-

Tuberculin Tested Milk

<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfied Methylene Blue Test</u>	<u>Failed Test</u>
14	9	5

Five samples of Sterilised Milk were taken, four satisfied the Turbidity Test, but owing to a laboratory accident the fifth was not tested.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

ICE CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Twenty samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total
18	2	-	-	20

It will be observed that 90% of these samples were classified Grade 1 and no samples were found to fall into Grades 3 or 4. At the end of the year 39 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of Iced Lollies were taken during 1955.

In Circular 1/54 the Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- 1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green Grocery	8
Grocery	35
Butchers	18
Fish Shops	11
Bakehouses	5
Confectionery	11
Cafes	3
	<hr/>
	91

In addition there are some 52 licensed premises including clubs.

- 2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises Registered for Sale of Ice Cream.	39
" " " Preparation of Meat	
" " " Pies and Sausages.	17
" " " Sale of Fish and Chips.	11

See page 8 for Milk Licences issued.

- 3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary.

Inspections of registered Food Premises and Other Food Shops Generally (including Slaughterhouses) are shown on page 4.

- 4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

No clean food guilds have been established.

5) the method of disposal of condemned food.

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the Slaughterhouse is collected by contractors for processing.

6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

The lists on pages 7 and 8 show the total weight of food condemned together with the weight of food condemned as the result of a fire.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 20 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings compared with 26 for the previous year. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

RAG FLOCK, 1951

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act, and these are subject to inspection by myself and Inspector Sherewood of the N.S.P.C.A. who has been appointed as Honorary Inspector.

RATS AND MICE

Comparatively few complaints were received during 1955, of infestation by rats and mice. The refuse dumps are treated regularly and have been kept well under control, evidence of infestation being generally small. The old sewers are treated twice a year in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. The new sewers were test baited prior to being brought into operation. The Agricultural Executive Committee are known to have many contracts for farms in this area.

FACTORIES ACT.

There are 50 factories on the Council's register, and 8 visits were paid resulting in one nuisance being found.

Form 572 has been completed and forwarded as requested in advance of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

Sanitary Inspector.

9th May, 1956.

